

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 3662

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending; claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11, 13 and 15-17 are rejected; and claims 3, 5, 12 and 14 are objected to in this application. Claims 1, 5, 10 and 14 are amended hereby; and claims 3 and 12 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,868,100 (Marsh), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 and submits that claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11 and 15-17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 and 10 have been, respectively, amended to include the elements of claims 3 and 12, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By amending independent claims 1 and 10 to include the elements, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 6, 7 and 9 depending therefrom, and claim 10 and claims 11 and 15-17 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9-11, 13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,232,880 (Anderson et al.), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 and submits that claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9-11, 13, 15 and 17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 and 10 have been, respectively, amended to include the elements of claims 3 and 12, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By amending independent claims 1 and 10 to include the elements, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 4, 6 and 9 depending therefrom, and claim 10 and claims 11, 13, 15 and 17 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

IPP0103.US

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 3662

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,350 (Girard et al.), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 and submits that claims 1, 7, 8, 16 and 17 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 1 and 10 have been, respectively, amended to include the elements of claims 3 and 12, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By amending independent claims 1 and 10 to include the elements which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 7 and 8 depending therefrom, and claims 16 and 17 depending from claim 10 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 5, 12 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Keeping in mind the Examiner's indication that these claims would be allowable, Applicant has incorporated the element of claim 3 into claim 1 and the element of claim 12 into claim 10 and cancelled claims 3 and 12, thereby placing claim 1 and claims 2, 4-9 depending therefrom and claim 10 and claims 11 and 13-17 depending therefrom in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally

UPP0103.US

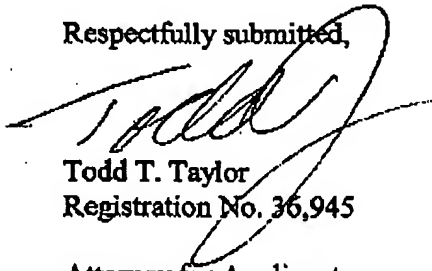
PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 3662

petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd T. Taylor
Registration No. 36,945

Attorney for Applicant

TTT6/dc

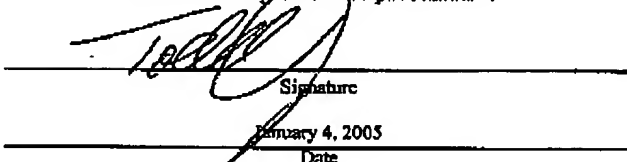
TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: January 4, 2005.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

January 4, 2005

Date

IPP0103.US